



COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Westminster Police Department

Andrew E. Hall, Chief of Police

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New Promotions at the Westminster Police Department



Congratulations to those who were promoted during the City Council Meeting on April 7, 2004:

(from left to right) Sergeant Tom Richard, Sergeant Jim Kingsmill, Sergeant Bill Arganda, Lieutenant Al Panella, Lieutenant Jack Davidson, and Captain Ron Coopman. Chief Andrew Hall (far right) conducted the Badge-Pinning and Oath of Office Ceremony in the presence of Mayor Margie Rice, Members of the Council, Interim City Manager Penny Loomer, City Department Heads, fellow police officers and colleagues, family members and the general public.



Chief Andy Hall

Words from Chief Hall

The men and women of the Westminster Police Department are committed to providing law enforcement services in a fair, just and non-discriminatory manner. As one part of our commitment, we have specifically addressed the issue of "racial profiling," which is an illegal and unacceptable police

practice. Although the Westminster Police Department enjoys an excellent reputation for providing ethical police service and respecting cultural diversity, we have taken *extra* steps to ensure those quality practices continue.

1) All sworn members of the Westminster Police Department will complete eight hours of training on racial profiling and cultural diversity in the months ahead. This training will address legal, ethical and cultural issues related to racial profiling and cultural diversity.

2) The Westminster Police Department's policy manual specifically addresses the issue of racial profiling and strictly prohibits it. All members of the department are required to prevent, report and

respond appropriately to any discriminatory or biased practices.

3) The Values Statement adopted by members of the Westminster Police Department includes an articulated commitment to the fair and equal treatment of all people.

4) The department randomly surveys people who have been issued citations or contacted on calls to learn their views regarding the experience and how they were treated.

I am proud to report our audits have *consistently* revealed a high level of citizen satisfaction. Still, we recognize your trust must continually be earned. We will continue implementing progressive strategies to ensure your ongoing satisfaction and confidence in us.

Community Feedback



Members of the community often take the time to let us know how the Police Department is doing. We appreciate your letters, emails, and phone calls. Hearing from you is the best way for us to ensure that we are serving your needs. As always, we strive to provide the best public safety services to each and every one in Westminster.

Excerpt: Letter from the Principal of Warner Middle School

"Your officers are always helpful and responsive to our needs. Anytime we call for assistance, whether the issue is big or small, we receive the same courteous and attentive service. The insight and assistance provided by your staff is invaluable and I treasure the professional relationships that I have forged with many of your officers."

-- Christine Fullerton --

Did You Know?

SHOPPING CARS FROM LOCAL STORES



Local stores, such as supermarkets and retail outlets, provide shopping carts for the convenience of their customers. Once you are done with your shopping trip, it is expected that these carts be returned to the stores. Usually, there are areas within the parking lot where you can return the carts.

Please remember that removal of shopping carts beyond the store's premise or parking area is a violation of State law. You can be cited and fined. Besides, a store's extra cost resulting from lost shopping carts may be passed onto customers like you and me.

If you see empty or abandoned shopping carts in your neighbor-

hood, please contact your local stores. They will arrange for pickup and retrieval of the shopping carts.



SCHOOL SAFETY Crossing Guards

The main job for Crossing Guards is to provide assistance to children and other pedestrians in crossing at busy streets along school routes.

Safety tips for motorists:

- Crossing guards wear a fluorescent green vest and hold a stop sign in an upright position when taking children across the street.
- All motorists **MUST STOP** before reaching a crosswalk when the stop sign is upright. This includes the time when the crossing guard and the children are preparing to cross or are in the roadway.
- Motorists **SHOULD NOT** proceed through the crosswalk until the children and the crossing guard have cleared the roadway. This is true REGARDLESS of whether the stop sign is upright or not.
- Be courteous and attentive if you encounter a crossing guard. Obey the crossing guard at all school crossings.
- Obey speed limits at all times.

Excellent Service to the Community

Officer Alan Emerson
Officer Chuck Estrada

For several weeks, WPD had been responding to fights and ongoing disputes between soccer league teams that played at the field at Leo Carrillo Elementary School. On March 14, 2004, Offi-



cers Alan Emerson and Chuck Estrada took it upon themselves to hold a meeting with all of the players. They led discussions on violence in sports, being a role model, and other positive messages that resonated with their audience. Impressed with the officers, these players contacted their league president, who in turn, called the Department to extend their compliments. The impact of the officers' proactive approach has led to the soccer players' newfound respect for WPD. Great work by both!

Taking the Extra Step!



Officer Dave Bridgewater

During a routine "trespassing" call on April 19, 2004, Officer Dave Bridgewater recognized the suspect as a local transient, who had repeatedly been involved in calls for service in the past. Instead of engaging in the routine arrest process, Officer Bridgewater researched via the Internet and found the suspect's mother (in Atlanta, Georgia) who had been looking for him. Working with his mother and Mental Health Specialist Lance Lindgren, Officer Bridgewater was able to arrange for a night's stay at the local shelter, next day's plane ticket, and assistance from airport deputies to reunite this family. Good job!

Excellent Investigation Leads to Suspect ID!



Officer Delores Searle
Officer Jason Stouffer

On May 9, 2004, numerous officers responded to an assault with a deadly weapon call. Multiple suspects assaulted the victim with clubs and a knife. Officer Delores Searle tenaciously collected various types of evidence. She interviewed the uncooperative victim at the hospital, documented his graphic injuries with a digital cam-

era, and collected his blood-soaked clothing as evidence. In the meantime, Officer Jason Stouffer remained at the crime scene to conduct in-depth interviews with uncooperative witnesses. One of the witnesses refused to name his cousin, who was with him prior to the stabbing. Sensing that this information may be important, Officer Stouffer took it upon himself to return later that night and spoke with the father of the witness and obtained the needed information. After confirming with our in-house records and reviewing all collected evidence, the police was able to identify the cousin as the primary suspect. Good police work!

Bone Marrow Drive

On May 10, 2004, WPD hosted a bone marrow drive. Coordinated by Lieutenant Phil Marshall and Officer Ron Weber, Jr., the event successfully attracted donors from WPD, City Hall, West Justice Center, Golden West Police Academy, and neighboring police agencies.

All donors have now joined the National Marrow Donor Program® (NMDP) Registry. If you would like more information, go to <http://www.marrow.org> or call 1-800-marrow-2.

On behalf of the Department, Chief Hall accepted a plaque of appreciation from Lieutenant Jackie Gomez-Whiteley and Lieutenant John Whiteley of the Orange Police Department.



(from left to right) Officer Ron Weber, Jr., Lieutenant Phil Marshall, Lieutenant John Whiteley, Chief Andy Hall, and Lieutenant Jackie Gomez-Whiteley.

Another Bone Marrow Drive has been scheduled **for June 19, 2004, from 10am to 8pm, at the Tustin**

Police Department (located at 300 Centennial Way, Tustin, CA 92780).

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

The Westminster Police Department has put together a "Neighborhood Meeting" for residents in the area of Liberty Park **on Saturday, May 22, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in the City Council Chambers.** Other City departments' staff will also be present at the meeting. Participants will be given the opportunity to discuss and address various community concerns.

Upcoming Promotion

Congratulations! Detective Dan Schoonmaker will be promoted to Police Sergeant. He will be assigned to the Patrol Division.



Detective Dan Schoonmaker

The Badge-Pinning and Oath of Office Ceremony will take place at the beginning of the Westminster City Council Meeting on Wednesday, June 16, 2004, at 7:00 p.m.

SIGN UP FOR CITIZEN ACADEMY!

This 10-week course is designed to offer participants a chance to gain first hand knowledge of the problems, policies, and laws that police officers deal with everyday. The academy meets once a week at the Police Department. Weekly topics include, but are not limited to: criminal law, officer safety, gangs, DUI's, domestic violence and investigative procedures.

The next course is scheduled tentatively for late summer. Space is limited, so reserve your spot early! For more information, or if you know someone who may be interested in the academy, contact Police Services Officer Ken Edwards at 714-898-3315, ext. 590, or kennethe@ci.westminster.ca.us.

Special Awards And Recognition



Chief Andrew Hall Ambassador of Peace Award

The Violence Prevention Coalition of Orange County will present Chief Andrew Hall with the prestigious "2004 Ambassador of Peace Award" to honor his outstanding contributions and commitment to preventing and reducing violence in our communities.



Chief Andy Hall

Chief Hall is recognized for creating the Westminster Police Department Community Outreach Program. Developed in response to community input, this program aims to facilitate information sharing between the Police and the community. Safety tips are published in Vietnamese newspapers and magazines; information pamphlets that identify crime concerns were distributed to local merchants; and interviews that discuss various police related topics (such as Traffic & Public Safety Concerns, Holiday Shopping Safeguards, Domestic Violence, Megan's Law) were conducted on Vietnamese radio and television programs.

The award luncheon will take place at 11:30am on June 4, 2004, at Turnip Rose in Costa Mesa. For information, contact Mary Leigh Blek at 949-888-8394.

"Baker to Vegas" Relay Run Result

The 2004 "Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay Race" took place on April 23-25, 2004. WPD Team Coach, Detective Eric Grisotti, is pleased to announce that our team finished 5th out of 14 teams in our division.



Final time was recorded at 17 hours and 57 minutes... not bad for running in the desert while the temperature climbed to 101 degrees! Good job everyone!

Arbor Day Community Activity



On May 1, 2004, Public Works Director Brad Fowler hosted the annual Arbor Day, a city-sponsored event directed at planting trees in local parks and parkways in our neighborhoods.

This year, we had lots of help from the community. Special thanks go to **West Coast Arborist**, a local company that provides the City with tree trimming and tree planting services. Several days before the event, West Coast Arborist had work crews plant 100 trees in center medians and redevelopment areas throughout the City!

On Saturday, May 1st, members from the Westminster Kiwanis Club, Starbucks Coffee and Westminster High School Key Club volunteers planted an additional 85 trees. Residents came out and thanked them for their services and efforts to restore beauty to their streets.

Heartfelt thanks go to volunteers from Starbucks, Kiwanis members, Key Club and West Coast Arborist for your hard work to make our City look great! Most of all, this

would not have been possible without the hard work and planning from Public Works Director Brad Fowler. Good job!



CRIME PREVENTION TIP FROM WPD

SECURING YOUR HOME

Summer is fast approaching, and it is time to open up windows and doors to enjoy the wonderful fresh air. But remember! When you leave for work, grocery stores, or the mall for a little shopping, make sure you close and lock all the doors and windows.

If you leave your home unsecured, you make it an easy target for a burglar!



If you see suspicious people driving or walking around in your neighborhood, we encourage you to call us. Let us know if there are people or cars that are just out of the ordinary. Together, we can possibly prevent a burglar from casing your neighborhood.

If you have a Neighborhood Watch, or Crime Prevention, questions feel free to call us at (714) 898-3315, ext. 590.

Property Bureau

The Property and Evidence Division receives, documents and stores all property booked in as evidence, recovered stolen property, lost & found property, and items held in safekeeping for known owners.

Property stored on a case involving an arrest is held until the court case is over. There are exceptions to this rule regarding homicide cases, sexual assault cases, cases requiring DNA testing and a few other crimes that require a longer retention period. The longer retention periods for DNA evidence has

created a constant storage problem for Property Divisions in general, as the items usually need to be maintained in a frozen state.



The Property Division will attempt to return all property no longer needed as evidence to the proper owner unless the items are considered contraband in nature. Items such as narcotic substances and paraphernalia are not returnable. The same is true for some knives and firearms. If the property is no longer needed and the rightful owner cannot be located, it is sent to auction through a local auction company.

Did you know? The Police Department receives many lost & found properties, but most do not have identifying information on them. As mentioned before, if the rightful owners cannot be located, the items are sent to auction. So, remember to list or engrave a California Driver's License number (not Social Security number) on anything of value to you. This way, if your lost property is ever turned in to the Police Department, we can easily trace the item and return it to you in a timely manner.

The Property Division is staffed by two Property Clerks. They are available Monday to Friday, from 7:00a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Please feel free to contact the Property Division at (714) 898-3315, ext. 309 for assistance.

FRONT DESK

Police Services Officers at the Department Lobby/Front Desk are here to serve you during the hours of 8am to 7pm, 7 days a week.

These civilian personnel are here to answer your questions and direct you to appropriate resources or information. They can also take police reports for minor crimes. For example, if you have been a victim of identity theft or if your wallet has been stolen, you can come into the Police Department and file your complaint(s). The Police Services Officers will take your statements and complete your police report(s).

However, if there is an emergency or if you are a victim of a serious crime that has just occurred, please call 9-1-1. We will send an officer to you. That way, we can provide you with immediate assistance, collect crucial evidence, and begin our investigation.

If you would like to speak to our Police Services Officers at the Front Desk via telephone, please call 714-898-3315, ext. 425.



Ask Your Questions

jackd@ewpd.org

(714) 898-3315
extension 723

Question: "Can you please clarify when a driver needs to stop for a school bus?"

Answer: There is still some confusion about when to stop for a school bus that is picking up or dropping off children.



Detailed information can be found under §22454 of the California Vehicle Code, which refers to what the driver of a vehicle should do. Here are the basic rules.

You need to stop if:

- You are in a two-lane road (one lane for each direction, such as 15th Street) and a school bus displays a flashing red light signal and stop signal

arm. Cars in both directions have to stop.

- You are in a multiple lane road (with two or more lanes of travel in each direction, such as Beach Blvd.) and you are driving in the same lane behind a school bus displaying a flashing red light signal and stop signal arm.

You do not need to stop if:

- You are in a multiple lane road (with two or more lanes of travel in each direction, such as Beach Blvd.) and you are NOT driving in the same lane behind a school bus displaying a flashing red light signal and stop signal arm. This is true even if you are going the same direction as the bus.
- You are in a multiple lane road (with two or more lanes of travel in each direction, such as Beach Blvd.) and you are driving in the opposite direction to a school bus displaying a flashing red light signal and stop signal arm.

AS ALWAYS, DRIVE SAFELY AND REMEMBER THAT CHILDREN ARE SOMETIMES HARD TO SEE.

"Law Enforcement Memorial Week" Events

IN MEMORY OF OFC. STEVE PHILLIPS



Memorial Bike Ride

Officer Jim Mraz & Detective Dan Schoonmaker endured a grueling 620-mile, 4-day bike trip from

Sacramento to Santa Ana, in honor of our friend Steve Phillips. This bike trek, which took place from April 30th through May 3rd, raised funds to aid family survivors of officers killed in the line of duty.

FAB FOUR Concert

The Steve Phillips Memorial Concert was held on May 9, 2004, at The Grove of Anaheim. It featured one of Steve's favorite bands, the FAB FOUR. Donations were collected for the Westminster Police Officer Association (WPOA) Memorial Fund. If you would like to make a donation, please visit the WPOA Website at <http://www.westminsterpoa.com>.

IN MEMORY OF LT. RON WEBER, SR.



Golf Tournament

Eight Westminster Police Officers participated in the Tommy De La Rosa Memorial Golf Tournament (sponsored by the Orange County Narcotic Officers' Association) on May 3, 2004. The event was dedicated to Ron Weber, Sr., for his lifetime commitment to narcotics enforcement. Money was raised for various charities, including the California Narcotic Officers' Association Survivor Benefit Fund.

Golden West Academy Memorial

On May 26, 2004, the Golden West Academy (GWA) held a memorial ceremony to honor past GWA recruits. This year, the names of Ron Weber, Sr., and Buena Park Police Corporal Tyler Pinchot were added to the Memorial Wall.

Street Dedication

A new street dedicated to Ron Weber, Sr., is now in the City's newest residential community. You can find "Weber Avenue" inside the CenterStone Town Center, located near All American Way and Westminster Blvd.

New Faces at WPD

Officer-in-Training

Officer Alan Aoki joined the Westminster Police Department in March 2004 after graduating from the Golden West College Police Academy. Officer Aoki is a native of Huntington Beach and attended Orange Coast College, where he received an Associate in Arts Degree in Sociology. With his previous customer service experience and management background, Officer Aoki is truly a wonderful addition to the Department.



Officer Alan Aoki and Chief Hall

Reserve Officer

Welcome back! Retired Lieutenant Bob Amren rejoined the Westminster Police Department in April 2004 as a Reserve Officer.



Reserve Officer Bob Amren

His main assignment is to assist with background investigations of new employee applicants. Bob

will also play an integral part in the Department's recruitment efforts.

Thrill of a Lifetime!



Police Escort for 91-year-old's First Harley-Davidson Ride!

On March 23, 2004, four Westminster police motorcycle officers provided a short 10 minutes escort to a 91-year-old Westminster resident for her first ride on a Harley-Davidson. With the help of the Choir Boys Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, this surprise birthday present helped complete her life's to-do list.

RETIREMENT

After 23 years of dedicated service to the City of Westminster, Sergeant Tom Blackburn retired from the Police Department in April 2004.



Sergeant Tom Blackburn

A celebration dinner was held on May 15, 2004, at the Tustin Banquet Center. Many of Tom's friends and colleagues gathered to bid him a fond farewell. Good luck with retirement, Tom!

Police Department Phone Numbers

**If you have an emergency,
call 9-1-1!**



**For non-emergency
or other business,
call (714) 898-3315**

General Information	ext. 425
Dispatch	ext. 326
Records Bureau	ext. 371
Traffic Division	ext. 339
Administration	ext. 301

E-mail List

If you are not on our Community Briefing e-mail list and would like to be, please let us know by sending your name and e-mail address to

admin@ewpd.org



**Mayor Margie L. Rice
Mayor Pro-Tem Andy Quach
Councilman Kermit Marsh
Councilman Frank Fry
Councilman Russell Paris**

We want to express our sincere appreciation to the Westminster City Council for their support and commitment to public safety!

Community Briefing is a newsletter produced quarterly by the Westminster Police Department. Its main purpose is to share information about the Department with the community we serve.

Further questions or comments regarding the contents of this newsletter should be forwarded to the Research & Planning Unit at (714) 898-3315 ext. 460 or admin@ewpd.org.